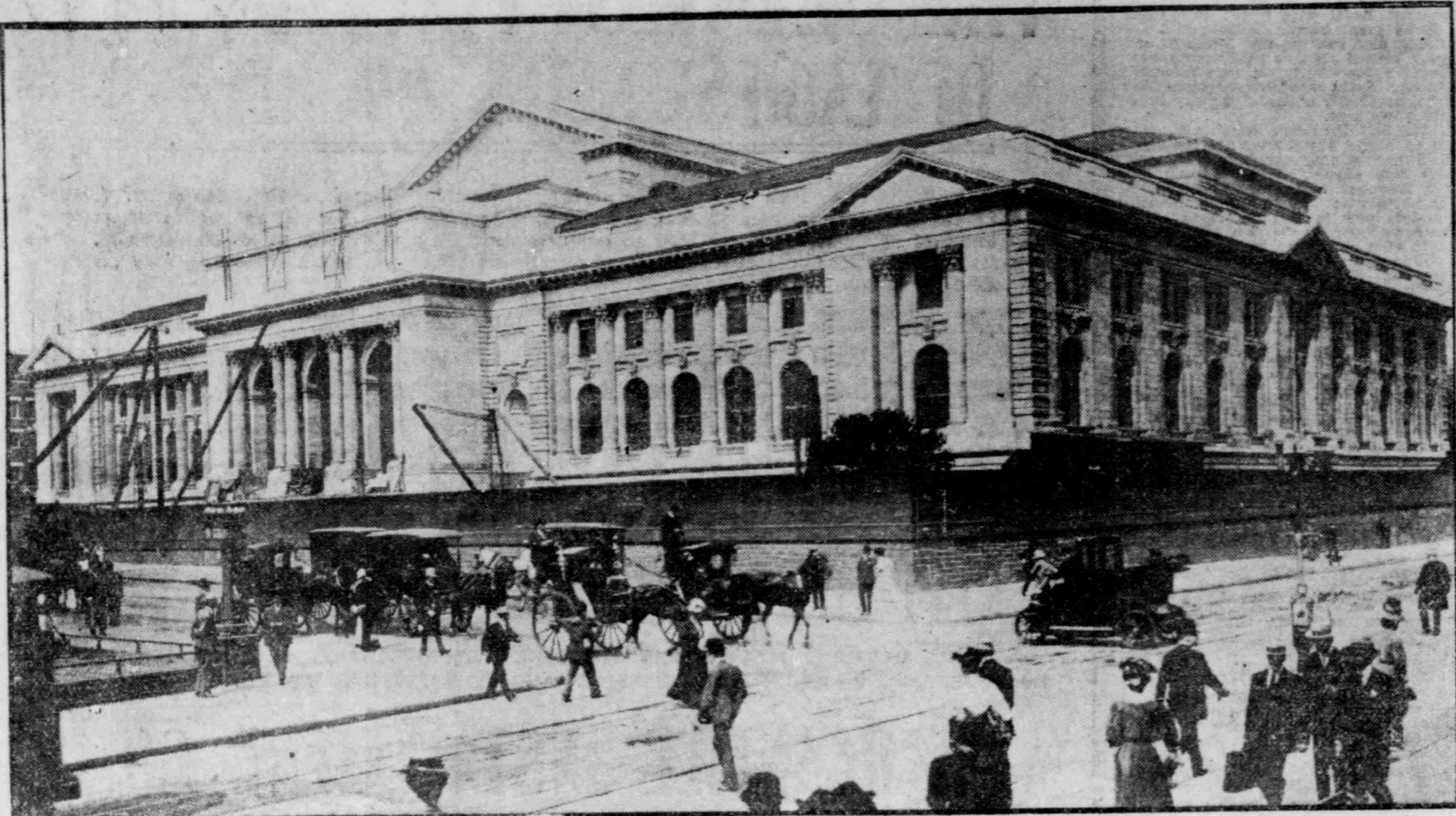


Sixty-three Miles of Book Shelves in New York Public Library



New York Public Library.

New York, July 24.—In the "most magnificent public building in the United States," as New Yorkers characterize the new public library, now nearing completion at Fifth avenue and Forty-second street, on the site of a once famous reservoir, there will be sixty-three miles of book shelves. It is estimated that these shelves will afford lodging for about 3,500,000 volumes.

Realizing the extreme value of the treasures which will be stored here, the architects and builders have taken especial care to make certain that this mammoth collection shall be safe from fire. The beautiful structure will be as nearly fireproof as human ingenuity can assure.

The walls of the building are of massive stone, shining white. It fills the entire frontage of two city blocks from Fortieth to Forty-second street, facing east. It is 394 feet long, 274 feet deep and 120 feet above the ground at its highest point. Selected stones from the walls of the old reservoir compose a large part of the foundations. The walls are six feet thick at the base. The marble facing is composed of solid blocks a foot or more thick.

From the standpoint of library arrangement the stack room at the rear, overlooking Bryant park, is the unique feature of the library. In the room, which is 237 feet long, 78 feet wide and 53 feet high, is a structure of steel beams covering almost the entire

space. This is the bookcase. Four and a half million pounds of steel were put into it. The weight will fall upon 704 cast iron columns, bolted at their bases to solid rock. Floors and partitions will be made of hollow blocks of porous terra cotta, which, manufactured under a heat equal to that of any possible conflagration, is unburnable. The interior steel columns in the library, too, are protected against fire by the hollow blocks, for it has been proved by tests that steel gives way when exposed to very great heat.

The principal reading room is in the top of the building and its windows look on Fifth avenue and on Bryant park. By day all light will be fur-

nished by the sun, and the big room, on account of its lofty and open position, will be especially well lighted. It will be a show place of the city.

Between the reading room and the stack room beneath there will be direct vertical communication. When a reader wants a certain book he gives his order to an attendant near his seat, and in three or four minutes the desired volume is in his hands.

The basement contains parcel rooms, a department for the exhibition of patents, a special library of children's books, a luncheon room, a book bindery, quarters and lockers for employees and an office of the circulating department of the library.

Cooling Drinks For Hot Days

BY CORNELIA C. BEDFORD.

There is nothing more refreshing in warm weather than a cold drink. In the city we hie us to the nearest soda fountain; but there are many equally tasty beverages which may readily be prepared at home. Some take but little time in their preparation, while bottled varieties must be started some days before they are needed. All of the following are simply made and delightful in flavor.

It will greatly facilitate matters if a stock syrup is made. With it at hand any kind of fruit drink is but a matter of a few moments. Dissolve five pounds of granulated sugar in three quarts of boiling water, stirring until the mixture is clear. Then put the spoon aside and boil for ten minutes. Take from the fire, skim thoroughly and let stand until partly cooled. Strain through a piece of wetted cheese cloth, bottle, cork and keep in a cool dry place. Use this syrup in place of sugar.

Iced Coffee and Tea—For coffee use a drip pot that the coffee may be clear, strong and rich in aroma. Add sufficient sugar syrup to sweeten moderately and set aside until cold. In serving fill the glass with finely broken ice, add the coffee and pass a small pitcher of syrup for those who desire a very sweet beverage. Cream is but seldom used.

Strawberry Wine—Steam and crush the ripe berries; an easy way is to put through a food chopper. Let stand in tubs until they begin to ferment, then press out the juice. Dilute with an equal quantity of water, then measure. To each gallon add three pounds and a half of sugar. Stir and ferment in a small cask or stone jars. When fermentation ceases put up in bottles. This wine is not ready until from three to six months after making.

thoroughly, then slowly add one quart of boiling water. Stir until the sugar is dissolved and add three quarts more of boiling water. Cover and let stand for twenty minutes, add a half ounce of powdered tartaric acid. Color with saffron which has been steeped in a little boiling water. Strain when cold and bottle. Use several tablespoonfuls of this in a tumbler of iced water.

Grape Juice—Steam and wash the grapes. Bruise with a wooden mallet, then place over a slow fire and stir occasionally until steaming hot and the seeds loosen from the pulp. Turn into bags made of two or more thicknesses of cheese cloth and let drip. Put the clear juice aside and squeeze the pulp, then discard it. The squeezed juice should be made up separately; it is equally well flavored, but will be cloudy, while the dripped juice is clear. Sweeten the juice to taste with sugar syrup. Have ready some perfectly clean bottles with tightly fitting corks. Fill to the shoulder of each bottle. Arrange in a steamer or regular fruit canner. Steam for three-quarters of an hour. Cork immediately (have the corks soaked and pliable) and tie down. When cooled dip the tops in melted paraffine and put away in a cool place. When properly made this is delicious and keeps indefinitely. It is very nutritious and is frequently prescribed for persons with delicate digestion.

Elderberry Wine—Steam and crush the ripe berries; an easy way is to put through a food chopper. Let stand in tubs until they begin to ferment, then press out the juice. Dilute with an equal quantity of water, then measure. To each gallon add three pounds and a half of sugar. Stir and ferment in a small cask or stone jars. When fermentation ceases put up in bottles. This wine is not ready until from three to six months after making.

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